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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/888,976	06/22/2001	Memphis Zhihong Yin	10010595-1	9560

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EXAMINER

SORRELL, ERON J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2182

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2004

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/888,976	YIN, MEMPHIS ZHIHONG
	Examiner Eron J Sorrell	Art Unit 2182

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16, 18-20 and 22-29 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 1-10, 16, 18-20 and 22-29 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 11-15 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 22 June 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The declaration filed on 3/1/04 under 37 CFR 1.131 is sufficient to overcome the Rhoads et al. reference.

2. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 11 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilbert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,904,652 hereinafter "Gilbert") in view of McFadden (U.S. Patent No. 6,575,167).

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5. Referring to claim 11, Gilbert discloses a portable computer comprising:

a main housing (see item labeled 14 in figure 3);

a keyboard and display associated with the main housing (see item labeled 14 in figure 3);

a handle associated with the main housing and including a data connector (see item labeled 12 in figure 3 and line 57 of column 5 to line 25 of column 6; Note item 15B is the handle as it is configured to be gripped by a users hand and the connection from the handle to the laptop computer is the data connector as it passes data from the transducer to the laptop computer).

Gilbert fails to teach the handle comprises a mechanical connector.

McFadden teaches, in an analogous apparatus, a handle comprising a mechanical connector (see item 10 in figure 4 and abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the apparatus of Gilbert with the teachings of McFadden. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to make such modification in

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order to protect the hand of the user as suggested by McFadden (see abstract).

6. Referring to claims 13 and 14, McFadden teaches the mechanical connector comprises a latched that is biased to a lock position and including a button that when depressed moves the latch to an unlock position (see lines 38-44 of column 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Gilbert with the above teaching of McFadden in order to provide an simple way to connect and detach the mechanical connector.

7. Referring to claim 15, Gilbert discloses that the handle defines a surface that faces away from the main housing and the electrical connector and mechanical connector are associated with the surface (see figure 3).

8. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilbert in view McFadden as applied to claim 11 above and further in view of Freadman (U.S. Patent No. 6,263,381).

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9. Referring to claim 12, the combination of Gilbert and McFadden fails to disclose the electrical connector comprises a USB connector.

Freadman discloses a peripheral device that electrically connects to a computer housing wherein the electrical connection comprises a USB connection (see lines 45-64 of column 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Gilbert and McFadden with the teachings of Freadman such that the electrical connection comprises a USB connection. Freadman suggest that the use of USB connector allows for distribution of power without the need for a separate power supply attachment (see lines 61-64 of column 1).

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 1-10, 16, 18-20, and 22-29 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

12. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eron J Sorrell whose telephone number is 703 305-7800. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A Gaffin can be reached on 703 308-3301. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EJS
March 19, 2004



JEFFREY GAFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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